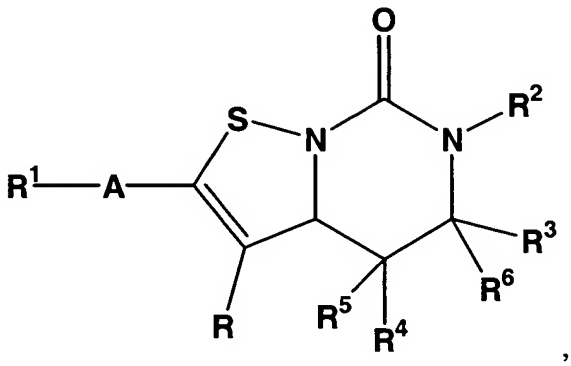
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

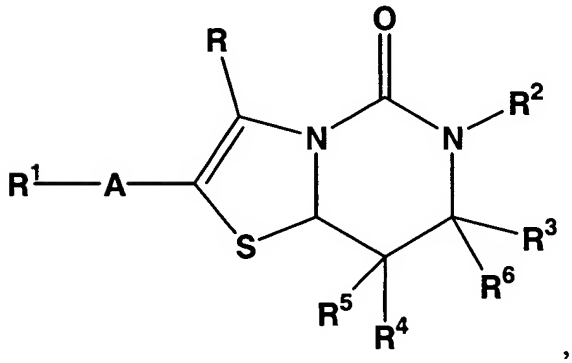
Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

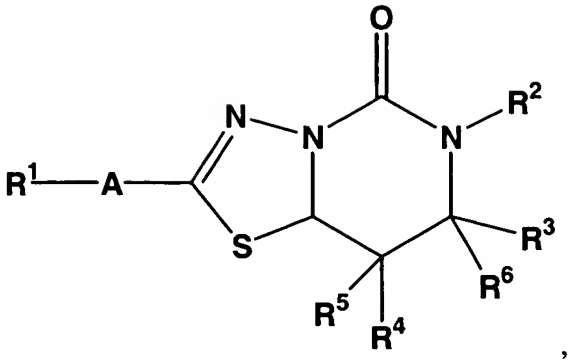
Claim 2 (currently amended). A compound ~~according to claim 1~~ selected from the group consisting of:



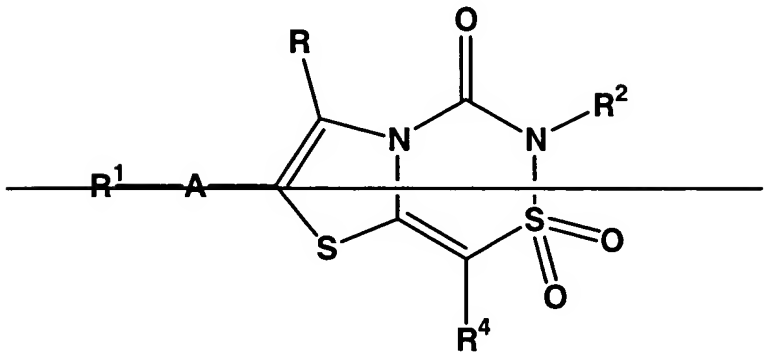
,



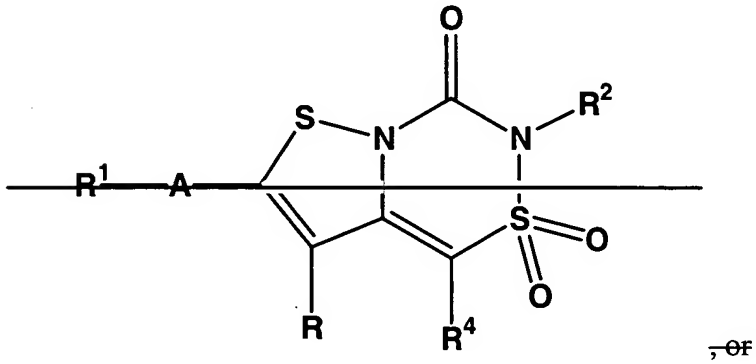
, and



, or



~~, and~~



~~, or~~

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein A is –NR(C=O), -(C=O)NR, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, or a bond;

wherein each R, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, and R^6 are the same or different, where ever they appear, and each is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-

C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-; wherein each of the aforesaid group members, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, may be optionally independently substituted with one to three suitable substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, -CN, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy-, CF_3-, CF_3O-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, HO(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(O)(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(O)(C=O)(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(C=O)(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, -(S=O)R, -(SO_2)R, and NR^7R^8 wherein R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl;
R, R^3, R^5, and R^6 may further be hydrogen; and
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, and R^4 may be optionally substituted with one to three suitable substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, -CN, CF_3-, and CF_3O-.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The compound of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein R^1 is independently selected from (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The compound of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein R^2 is independently selected from (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-

C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The compound ~~according to any one of Claims 1 to~~ 4 as in Claims 2, 3, or 4, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-.

Claim 6 (original). The compound according to Claim 5, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl- and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-.

Claim 7 (original). The compound of Claim 6, wherein R^3, R^4, R^5, and R^6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-.

Claims 8 to 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (currently amended). A method for treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient suffering from an arthritis disease a nontoxic antiarthritic effective amount of a compound of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 12 (original). The method according to Claim 11, wherein the arthritis is osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis.

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (new). A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of arthritis in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of Claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.